

CHARITY & MISSIONS
(Formerly Benevolence)
Vienna Community Church – 2011

Identify organisations/projects
Bring suggestions to the Board
Make known the projects to the VCC
Channel the money

According to the Constitution By-laws from 2007/08 the following is written:

BENEVOLENCE: This committee shall study needs and opportunities for local ministries and for the support of various benevolent Christian activities.

It shall bring recommendations for disbursements of all benevolence funds to the Church Board for approval.

It shall direct Church Board approved social services undertaken on behalf of the Church.

Special appeals for benevolence need the approval of the Church Board. In urgent cases this can be given by the pastor, moderator or his or her designate.

Quote from Pastor 14. May 2009 “each person has some freedom to make the job their own. We each bring our gifts to the church and offer what we can”.

1. **2011: Charity and Missions:** The Charity and Missions Team presently consists of three persons.
2. Object of Team: to research for charities/missions that would appeal to the congregation in several areas. The Charity and Missions Team will research and make enquiries as to how donations made by us (VCC) would be used and establish good contacts with the organisations as far as possible.
3. 10 percent of Vienna Community Church’s income is designated to charity and missions so that this income should be distributed at the discretion of the team.
4. The main interest is to ascertain and assure that the money (donations) received from VCC goes direct to those in need and not to the support of administration services (if possible).
5. The team will give regular reports to the Church Board during the monthly board meetings, i.e. supply new suggestions with information etc. or follow-ups of donations.
6. Supply report for Annual General Meeting on funds and distributions etc.

Noisy Offering (Change for Change) Collection takes place on the last Sunday of each month and is collected by the Sunday School children. The charity/mission is to be child-orientated either in the health-care region or Diakonie of the Austrian Protestant Churches if possible. The money will be counted by those responsible, banked and C &M Team Leader informed a.s.a.p so that the editor of bulletin can received information accordingly.

For other donations which would be collected via **other fund raisers** (*as set by the Fellowship Committee - February 2009*) or brought to the attention of C & M and found worthy to support i.e. as operated by Diakonie/Caritas/Bible Society etc. which should be considered together with any emergency calls world-wide.

The VCC supports several on-going projects on an annual and regular basis.

Harvest Festival - St. Josef's Home for the homeless (Caritas home) – food, money and clothing

Christmas Eve special service - Protestant Prison Chaplaincy – donations

Christmas Bake Sale – Project Centipede/Rumania – donations

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With this background information/base it may be easier to discuss the coordination with the Fellowship Committee. (for the quarterly events with information and donation for one project).

In February 2011 Charity and Missions Team presented a PROFILE to the Board

Charity & Missions Policy 2011

“A tithe of everything from the land,
whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees,
belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.” Leviticus 27:29...

“Jesus answered, ‘If you want to be perfect,
go, sell your possessions and give to the poor,
and you will have treasure in heaven.
Then come, follow me.’” Matthew 19:21

Vienna Community Church is called to set the example for its members.

- Aim:** To support needy and worthy causes.
- Means:** **Tithe** - God has asked us to tithe, giving a tenth of our earnings. The VCC as a Christian body therefore aims to give a tenth of its income to Charity & Missions
- VCC:** The amount designated by the VCC for Charity & Missions is given in the annual budget.
The budget likewise gives the income expected to be raised by Charity & Missions.

Charities: Charity & Missions will inform the Board in January of the chosen charities for the coming year. The congregation will also be informed of the charities and missions chosen as well as the amounts given.

Fundraisers: Charity & Missions with the support of the Board and the Congregation holds quarterly fundraisers to designated Charities or Missions with the December fundraiser continuing to be for the benefit of the Centipede Project.

Any further fundraisers (e.g. concerts, special events) are to be co-ordinated with Charity & Missions. Likewise Charity & Missions will co-ordinate any dates for fundraising with Fellowship.

Change for Change

The Sunday School children collect Change for Change once a month during the service – donations received over three months will go to a Charity connected to children.

Church Offerings

There is one set church offering – the Christmas Eve offering for the support of the Protestant Prison Chaplain in Vienna.

Distribution For simplification, all funds raised or designated to Charity and Missions will be distributed in January of the following year. The Charity & Missions Chair will provide the Treasurer with full details of the recipients and the amounts to be transferred.

A set amount of € 1000.- will be allocated to the Diakonie to be divided equally between the Diakonie Österreich Auslandshilfe (emergency relief) and Diakonie Österreich/Wien (“Schulanfang” and “Wärmequell” = school and heating support for families in need).

However, special collections for emergency relief can be made by the congregation throughout the year and be paid out immediately.

'It is necessary for the C & M Chair person and perhaps one or other of the team to speak and is able to read German. There is a lot of information to be taken from newspapers and magazines, TV etc. and it should not be taken for granted that all organisations (or their personnel) speak and read English.'